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The Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership

**Academic Division Named
in Honor of DBU President**



THE GARY COOK GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP

In recognition of DBU President Dr. Gary Cook's seventeen years of leadership and service, the DBU Board of Trustees recently voted to name a new academic division of the University the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership. Throughout Dr. Cook's seventeen-year tenure, DBU has experienced unprecedented growth in its finances, facilities, student body, and academics.

"We wanted to find a way to say thank you to Dr. Cook for the way he has served DBU and helped it to become the university that it is today," explained Dr. Charles Ku, chair of the DBU Board of Trustees. "Therefore, the Board of Trustees has voted to name this school in honor of Dr. Cook."

DBU created the Gary Cook Graduate School of Leadership in 2004 in order to house DBU's Master of Arts in Christian Education. Beginning with 27 students in the Spring of 2004, the M.A.C.E. program currently is home to over 60 students seeking preparation for Christian ministry in a variety of fields. DBU decided to move the already popular Master of Education in Higher Education program into this new school because of the degree's emphasis on leadership studies. In addition, DBU's very first doctoral program, the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies, will be housed in the School, as well as the new Master of Arts in Worship Leadership degree, which will begin this coming Fall.

"Dr. Cook has done so much for DBU, and through his vision and leadership the School of Leadership

was created," said Dr. Bernie Spooner, associate dean of the new graduate school. "This is just a small way to honor all of his hard work."

Since Dr. Cook became president in 1988, the University has grown from 1,859 students to 4,714 in 2004. The University's assets have grown from \$27.7 million to \$71.1 million, and the University has finished each fiscal year in the black for the last sixteen years. The campus has expanded from 200 acres to 293 acres. Average SAT scores for incoming DBU freshmen have been raised from 887 in 1992 to 1,100 in 2004. In addition, 78% of the full-time faculty have doctorates or terminal degrees, compared to 52% in 1988. Another 12% of the full-time faculty are currently working on a terminal degree. Nine master's degree programs have been added since 1988, while graduate enrollment has increased from 259 in the fall of 1988 to 1,173 in the fall of 2004.

Dr. Cook received the Waco Humanitarian Award presented by the Waco Conference of Christians and Jews in 1985. He also received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award given by the Baylor Alumni Association in 1987. In 2000, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award presented by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 2003, he was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award presented by Baylor University.

Dr. Cook and his wife of thirty years, Sheila, have two sons, David, a college senior, and Mark, a high school senior.